

Notes From



# Pacific Clinics

ADVANCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

*Growing up locked up? Not these kids.*

Dear Reader,

It was the most moving graduation I've been to.

It was small - just five teens and their families - sitting in a few rows of folding chairs at the Pacific Clinics' Transitional Age Youth Hope Drop-in Center. But the significance of the ceremony was enormous.

As each graduate's name was called, they stood before their beaming families to receive their certificates. Just a few months prior, each of these young people had stood in front of a judge. They had broken the law, and they faced a choice: spend time locked up or enroll in Pacific Clinic's **New Directions** Juvenile Diversion program. They chose the latter.

It may have changed the course of their lives.



**New Directions** provides first-time offenders, ages 12 to 17, and their families with a highly structured, intensive program that addresses the root causes of their acting out. Mental health professionals provide individual and family counseling, case management, mentoring, introduction to community resources and educational assistance to help get these young lives back on track.

It can be hard for children to return to a positive path once they enter the juvenile justice system. They may have a criminal record for the rest of their life and one third become repeat offenders. But until last year, they had no other option, and judges had no other way to help. That is why Pacific Clinics partnered with the Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles Superior Court and the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office to create **New Directions**.



Fourteen-year-old Ricardo is a typical participant. He had struggled with his school work, and was disruptive in class. The worse he did in school, the angrier he became. The angrier he became, the worse he did. And one day, during an uncontrollable outburst, he hit a teacher.

Fortunately, he was able to enroll in **New Directions**. Now, when he starts high school in September, he'll have a team of people standing by to make sure he gets the help he needs before he becomes out of control. Now, his future is bright.



We wish the best of luck to Ricardo and all the **New Directions** graduates. We are proud of your hard work.

With warm regards,

Kym Pietsch | Vice President of Development

*\*Names and facts may have been changed to protect the privacy of our client.*

## Donate

Donate today to help give young people like Ricardo a new direction in life.

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